

56 Florida hospital ICUs have hit capacity

 [cnn.com/2020/07/07/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/07/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html)

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(CNN)The worsening coronavirus pandemic hit a series of somber peaks across the United States on Tuesday, renewing fears that more hospitals could be overloaded with Covid-19 patients.

At least 56 intensive care units in Florida hospitals reached capacity on Tuesday, state officials said. Another 35 hospitals show ICU bed availability of 10% or less, according to the Agency for Health Care Administration in that state.

Georgia surpassed 100,000 reported coronavirus cases, becoming the ninth state to pass the mark.

In California, the number of hospitalizations across the state were at an all-time high and the virus positivity rate jumped more than 2% in Los Angeles.

As nearly 3 million confirmed coronavirus cases were reported in the US, the need for testing has increased. That has led federal officials to set up new testing sites in Florida, Louisiana and Texas. But major diagnostic companies have said they are facing testing delays.

GOP governors in Florida and Texas split as coronavirus cases surge

Hospitals in Texas and Florida are flooded with critical Covid-19 patients and some local and state officials have made face coverings mandatory.

Last week, the country averaged just under 50,000 new cases daily -- the highest rate recorded, and twice as high as a month ago.

Texas reported more than 10,000 new cases on Tuesday, marking the highest single day total in the state since the pandemic began.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Tuesday the death rate among coronavirus patients has lowered but Americans shouldn't take comfort in it.



Masks are effective only if you wear them properly. Here's the right (and wrong) way "It's a false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death," Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during a livestream with Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama. "There's so many other things that are very dangerous and bad about this virus, don't get yourself into false complacency."



More than 131,200 people in the US have died from coronavirus, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

An influential coronavirus model often cited by the White House increased its projections for US deaths on Tuesday and it's now forecasting more than 208,000 deaths by November.

Live coronavirus updates

But face masks could save as many as 45,000 US lives by November if 95% of the population wears a covering in public, according to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, which built the model.

"It's an incredibly simple strategy and intervention," Chris Murray, director of the IHME, told CNN. "It's one that will save lives, but it will also help the economy enormously because it will avoid shutdowns which will inevitably come when things get quickly out of control in some states."

California hospitalizations at all-time high

Nearly 6,000 coronavirus patients are hospitalized in California -- the highest number since the pandemic began -- and the state is seeing a record number of Covid-19 patients in ICUs, according to data from California Department of Public Health.

California is only one of several states that are reporting record numbers of hospitalizations. Medical facilities in Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina are being overrun by the surge of cases.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced Tuesday that officials are sending 100 nurses and adding nearly 50 beds to Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. The facility has 345 Covid-19 patients with 25% of them in the ICU, the governor said.

In Florida, at least 43 hospitals across 21 counties -- including Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough and Orange counties -- have hit capacity and show zero ICU beds available, according to data released by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

In Texas, Houston's United Memorial Medical Center is seeing a rising number of patients that need a ventilator, chief medical officer Dr. Joseph Varon said Tuesday.

Medical staff there are "putting in anywhere between 16 to 20 hours a day," Varon told

CNN.

Lina Hidalgo, judge of Texas' Harris County, which includes Houston, is wants a stay-at-home order in her county as coronavirus cases rise. A patchwork method, she said, won't quell the virus in the long run.

"A long-term solution based on data instead of wishful thinking is what's going to put our economy in the position to succeed," Hidalgo told CNN's Kate Bolduan on Tuesday.

In Texas' Rio Grande Valley, a hospital in the city of Weslaco set up tent outside to help deal with an influx of Covid-19 patients, [CNN affiliate KVEO reported](#).

The 25-foot tent is meant to help South Texas Health System emergency room doctors treat and additional 20 coronavirus patients, adding to the 14 that the facility could otherwise handle.

"We are trying to reserve out in-house ER for the sicker patients," hospital director Pablo Laredo told KVEO on Monday.

Michigan governor calls for 'mask-up campaign'

At least 31 states have showed an upward trend in average new daily cases -- an increase of at least 10% -- over the last seven days, as of Tuesday morning, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Miami-Dade to shut down restaurants again as Florida's Covid-19 hospitalizations surge

Those states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington state, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Only four states have seen average daily cases decline more than 10% over those seven days: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

One of the main drivers of cases now could be "silent spreaders," or people who are asymptomatic or presymptomatic, according to a new study.



Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms says she tested positive for coronavirus

The report, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that asymptomatic or presymptomatic hosts could be responsible for half of cases. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Tuesday called for a "national mask-up campaign," saying it is necessary for everyone to wear masks to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

"I think that if everyone endorsed this, it's a simple, cost-effective thing that we could do to really mitigate spread," Whitmer told CNN's "New Day."

After weeks of health officials encouraging the public to wear face masks, at least 35 states along with Washington DC and Puerto Rico have implemented face covering requirements to help mitigate the virus' spread.



US commits \$1.6 billion to Covid-19 vaccine maker Novavax

The US government has announced it's giving the largest government Covid-19 vaccine contract to date, as a race to find and deliver an effective vaccine continues.

Operation Warp Speed commits \$1.6 billion to Covid-19 vaccine maker Novavax

Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's Covid-19 vaccine program, on Tuesday announced a \$1.6 billion contract with Novavax, a Maryland biotech company.

Novavax is the fourth company to receive federal funds to conduct large-scale Phase 3 clinical trials and manufacture its Covid-19 vaccine. Each trial is expected to include 30,000 people.

Novavax's \$1.6 billion will allow the company to test the vaccine and scale up production in advance of its possible approval, with the aim of delivering 100 million doses by February, Stanley Erck, Novavax's president and CEO, told CNN.

CNN's Jason Hanna, Shelby Lin Erdman, Elizabeth Cohen, John Bonifield, Jeremy Grisham, Adrienne Vogt, Kay Jones and Rosa Flores contributed to this report.

